

BEMBIDION QUINQUESTRIATUM GYLL. (COL.: CARABIDAE) AGAIN AT BLACKHEATH; WITH TWO FURTHER RECORDS. — While stripping loose bark off lopped branches of dead elm in the front garden of a deserted house on the Charlton side of Blackheath, S.E. London, on 4th October last, I was pleased to come upon a specimen of this interesting little ground-beetle. I had previously taken it but few times, always singly; and in a good many years' collecting in the district only two others had occurred to me, one beaten out of ivy on a wall of my former garden (1952, *Ent. mon. Mag.*, 88: 147) and another some years later in the house (of obscure provenance). I regard the species as rare in general, though occasionally numerous at a particular spot. Its true biotope is somewhat problematic, and its frequent association with old walls (attested by the records) often remarked upon. The single examples usually met with are doubtless for the most part casuals, away from their proper habitat. In June 1960 my mother caught and passed to me a specimen running on a table-cloth in a hotel at Marlborough, Wilts — possibly a new county record; and on 5.x.64 one was found under bark of a large fallen elm in Windsor Great Park, constituting an addition to the list of Windsor Forest Coleoptera. — A. A. ALLEN.

Obituary

CAPTAIN A. P. GAINSFORD

Peter Gainsford died on July 29th 1980 after a protracted illness which he bore with great fortitude. The calmness and courage which characterised the latter years of his life, and which arose out of his strongly held Christian beliefs, could not fail to impress all who knew him during that time.

Peter was born in Sheffield on May 28th 1915 and was educated at Kelly College, Tavistock, where he first started collecting butterflies. His army career was with the 43rd Wessex and 11th Armoured Division in Europe and he was awarded the Croix de Guerre during the B.L.A. advance from the Seine to Antwerp. A chartered architect for 32 years he had private practices in Plymouth, Winchester and Kenya.

The British butterflies were Peter's main entomological interest and he built up a magnificent collection which included *Venessa virginiensis* Dru., a unique aberration of *Anthocharis cardamines* L. and a series of extreme vars. of *Mellicta athalia* Rott. All of these he took himself. The remarkable ab. *berviniensis* of the Small Copper which he took at Wembury Point in 1969 is in the British Museum (Natural History) but the remainder of this collection was sold in 1975 and is in the National Butterfly Museum at Bramber Sussex. Afterwards he formed another collection of butterflies, all beautifully set and arranged and containing some fine vars. taken during the last few years of his life.

All who knew Peter Gainsford will want to extend their sympathy to Pamela his wife and his three sons. — C. J. LUCKENS